

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC)

Organization

- Staffed jointly by Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service.



- When activity warrants, NICC operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- NICC was established in 1975 to provide logistical support, and intelligence for wildfires across the nation. However, because NICC is an “all-risk” coordination center, it also provides support in response to other emergencies such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes.

The Coordination System is three-tiered and has established ordering protocols.

- Federal and state dispatch offices located throughout the United States receive requests for personnel, fixed and rotor-wing aircraft, equipment and supplies to support fire and non-fire emergency incidents.
 - When local dispatch offices (1st tier) have exceeded their internal capabilities to fill requests locally, requests are placed with their Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) to fill the requests. For wildland management, the USA has eleven 11 Geographic Area Coordination Centers.
 - When GACCs have exceeded their internal capability to fill requests because they are supporting multiple incidents, or when GACCs are competing for resources, the requests for personnel, aircraft, equipment, and supplies are routed to the National Interagency Coordination Center, in Boise Idaho.
- NICC coordinates resources allocation across the U.S., as well as providing support to incidents in foreign countries. The National Multi-agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group establishes priorities. The federal and state representatives for this group are responsible for responding to wildland fire and other events.
 - Based upon the “closest forces” and “total mobility” concepts, NICC will request the closest available qualified resource, regardless of agency affiliation.
 - In addition to coordinating resources among the GACCs, NICC is the sole source dispatch center for medium and large helicopters, military resources (excluding National Guard assets), airtankers and crews, infrared imagery aircraft, large transport aircraft and telecommunications equipment.

NICC is Organized into five functional areas:

- Equipment/Supply; coordinates telecommunications equipment, mobile food service and shower units,



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engines, ground or air transportation for equipment and supplies, portable weather stations, and miscellaneous supplies.

- **Crew & Overhead;** coordinates Area Command teams, Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams, Area Command Teams, Fire Use Teams, Burned Area Rehabilitation Teams, 20 person fire crews, and smokejumpers.



- **Aircraft Section;** coordinates the transport of people, supplies, and equipment; airtankers, lead planes, aerial supervision modules, retardant aircraft, large and medium helicopters, FAA portable control towers, and the military Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS), which convert C-130's into retardant airtankers and the flight tracking of aircraft.

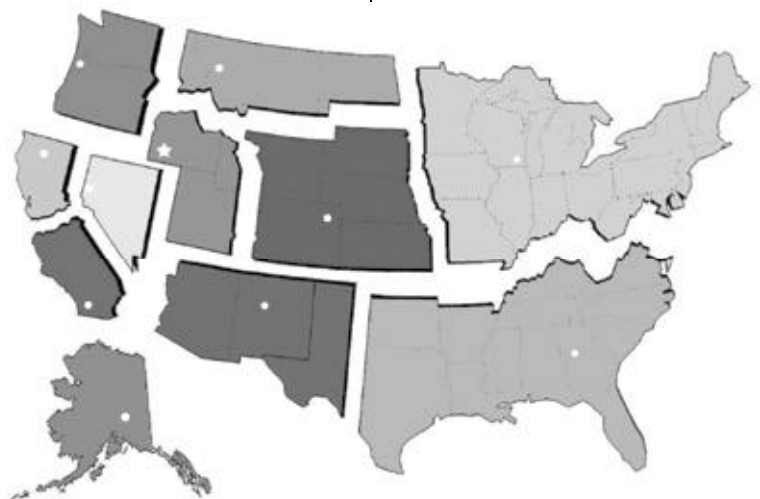
- **Intelligence;** collects, consolidates, and disseminates information to cooperating agencies, prepares daily, weekly, monthly, and annual reports and assists with briefings during periods of high activity.

Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs)

- The United States is divided into 11 geographic areas for wildland fire coordination. GACCs unify agencies with similar missions and use common coordination processes.

The 11 GACCs are:

- Eastern, Fort Snelling, MN
- Southern, Atlanta, GA
- Southwest, Albuquerque, NM
- Rocky Mountain, Lakewood, CO
- Northern Rockies, Missoula, MT
- Alaska, Fairbanks, AK
- Northwest, Portland, OR
- California North Ops, Redding, CA
- California South Ops, Riverside, CA
- Eastern Great Basin, Salt Lake City, UT
- Western Great Basin, Reno, NV



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● Geographic Area Coordination Center

